Approval for mining in Mayurbhanj

4194. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state: .

(a) whether the Ministry has given any approval for mining of iron-ores during last three years in district Mayurbhanj;

(b) if so, how many companies have got such approval alongwith the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether at present any proposal is pending with Government for consideration, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government for grant of mining lease for iron-ore in district Mayurbhanj is pending in the Ministry of Mines at present.

Iron-ore and coal mines and private companies

†4195. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision for granting iron-ore and coal mines to the private steel and power companies;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that these companies will not be allowed to sell their products in the open market;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that iron-ore rich States like Orissa and Jharkhand have put forth a demand that they will grant mining leases only to those companies which will be setting up of their plants within the boundary of the State; and

(e) if so, the deicison taken by Government in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.